

TANAGRA TATAO.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Rostrum conicum, acuminatum, emarginatum,
basi subtrigonum, apice declive.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 313.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

TANAGRA violacea, dorso nigro, uropygio ful-
vo, capite viridi, pectore alisque violaceis.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 315.

Nescio an hac plumas habeat aliqua avis splendidi-
ores. Possunt sane Trochili, aliarumque nonnullarum
colores, sigillatim inspecti magis nitescere; vix tamen
alii avi obtigit tanta lucidarum plumarum varietas.
Guianum incolit in America Australi pulcherrima hæc
avicula. Fæminæ et pullis pallidior est color; fit etiam
interdum ut avis adulta differat paulum colore alia ab
alia. Cantu plane caret; quod illi cum multis aliis re-
giones calidiores incolentibus commune est: dicamus
igitur cum elegantissimo fabularum scriptore, '*Si vocem
haberis nulla prior ales foret.*'

THE
PARADISE TANAGRA.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conical, acuminated, a little inclining towards the point, upper mandible slightly ridged, and notched near the end.

Linnaeus and *Pennant*.---Class, *Passeres*.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

VIOLACEOUS TANAGRA, with the back black, the rump orange, head green, breast and wings violet-blue.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p.

Le SEPTICOLOR.

Buff. Ois. vol. IV. p. 279. pl. 13.

TITMOUSE OF PARADISE.

Edw. pl. 349.

It may be doubted whether in the whole feathered tribe there exists a bird of gayer plumage than this. In the Humming-birds and some others, there are indeed still more vivid hues, if singly considered; but scarce any bird yet known displays such a combination of lively colours. This splendid little creature is an inhabitant of Guiana in South America. The female is somewhat less brilliant in colour, as is also the case with



Atalapha rubra (Sw.) Gmel. *Atalapha rubra* (Sw.) Gmel. *Atalapha rubra* (Sw.) Gmel.

with those which have not yet attained their full age; it likewise happens that some slight varieties occasionally take place in the colours of the full-grown birds. Like many of the gay birds of the hotter climates, it is destitute of song. In the words of the elegant fabulist, we may apply to it, '*Si vocem haberet, nulla prior ales foret.*'